



The Centennial

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AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



Photo credit: Douglas W. Millison. From the Four Chaplains Service- Rob Barry, Sarah Tobin, Kurt Sinner and Joel Haas representing the four chaplains.

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3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917
719.599.8624

www.legion209.org

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>



The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

Commander:	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
Adjutant:	Doug Millison	(719) 599-8624
Sr. Vice Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
Honor Guard:	Joel Haas	(719) 482-4496
Finance Officer:	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
Judge Advocate:	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Historian:	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
Exec. Cmtman/Club Mgr:	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Immediate Past CDR:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2022-2023

President:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Vice President:	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
Secretary:	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Chaplain:	Mary Bramer	(719) 633-8612
Exec.-at-Large:	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
Historian:	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
Sgt-at-Arms:	Michelle Bresee	



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2022-2023

Commander:	Rob Barry	
Adjutant & Finance Officer:	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
Sr. Vice Commander:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Jr. Vice Commander:	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bob Ingram	(480) 353-8234



American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

President:	Ed Santos	(719) 329-4357
Vice President:	Jerry "Rico" Shay	(719) 244-3901
Secretary:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Treasurer:	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
Road Captain:	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
Historian:	Tina Cope	
Communications:	Gary Asp	(719) 822-3270



From the desk of the Commander

Initiation, right of passage, and bonding ritual are all pretty much the same. I think of them more as a right of passage and bonding. I am sure most of us that served have gone thru some form of these ceremonies. The Navy has many that you may or may not know. Some of them are the crossing-the-line ceremony (for new sailors crossing the equator) and blue nose (when new sailors cross into the arctic circle). In addition, the chiefs have their initiation that they keep pretty close to the chest unless you are a chief. The one I remember being a part of best is when I became a Third-Class Petty Officer; this is the tacking on of the crow. Navy rank insignia consists of three parts; the crow, your rating(job) insignia, and the stripe indicating your rank. The crow must be tacked on when you advance in rank to ensure it does not fly away. Everyone that already holds the rank you just made or higher can tack on your crow. How it gets tacked on may have gotten out of hand a few times, but most people give you a light tap and congratulate you on moving up within the Navy. I enjoyed getting my crow tacked on when the Navy promoted me to Third and Second-Class Petty Officer. It was an accomplishment to be proud of and a feeling of joining the brotherhood with the men and women before me.

At the general membership meeting in March, we will be holding our ceremony, The American Legion Initiation Ceremony. This is unlike some of the ceremonies you may have gone thru while in the military. No one will make you crawl thru the trash or be hitting you. Instead, this ceremony introduces you to The American Legion and some of our principles. It doesn't matter if you have been a member for 20 years or if this is your first year as a member of The American Legion. If you have never gone thru an initiation, please consider joining us at the general membership meeting in March and participating in the ceremony. You do not have to go thru an initiation to be a member of The American Legion, but we encourage you to do so.

Once you go thru the initiation ceremony, think about getting more involved with your Post. One way you can do this is to consider running for one of the positions at the Post. We will have elections in April, and all positions are up for election. If you are unsure of the responsibilities for a specific position, ask one of the current officers or see the article from the Judge Advocate in this month's newsletter. You do not have to be an officer of the Post to be involved. There are plenty of activities that need your help. Talk with one of the officers, and they can help you figure out what you can do to help. This is all of our Post; together, we can do even more than we already do to help veterans and our community.

Thanks for all you do to help our Post and veterans.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander



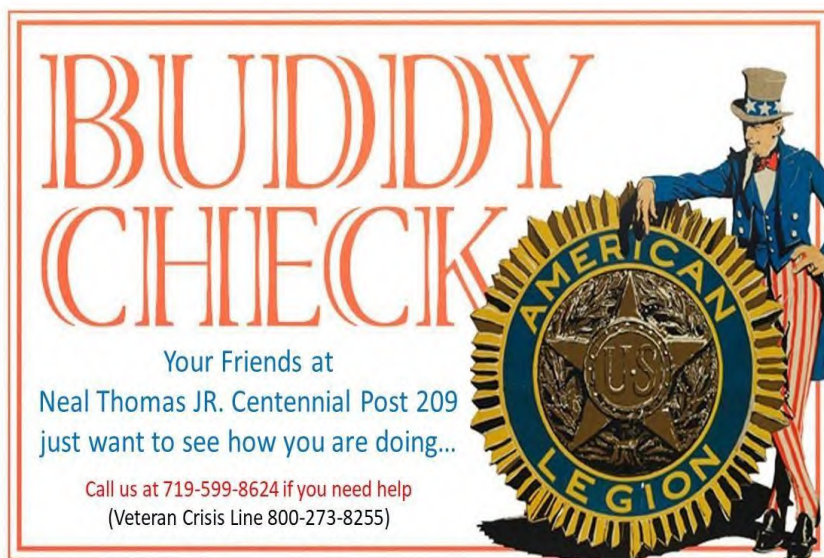


From the desk of the Jr. Vice Commander

I am sitting here watching a February "Blizzard" and thinking about my article. I wish I were young enough to go out and enjoy it. Alas, that day passed a few decades ago. Now I look forward to seeing my new friends at the Post. I would love an opportunity to grow my circle of friends, so why not come to one of our events? I am confident you'll come back again if you do, and I can add you to my network of Legion friends. The American Legion Post 209 is the largest Post in Colorado. We have well over 1000 members on our roster. I see, maybe 1/10 of you. I know less than half of them. Many of you who have not renewed your membership for 2023 now have an expired one. This means you no longer have The American Legion privileges. Whether you utilize those privileges or not, your membership dues help all veterans. Your membership is important when The Commander of The American Legion goes before Congress to persuade them to do something for American veterans. You also miss out on the camaraderie of others who know where you've been and what you went through. For the sake of your brothers and sisters, renew your membership and come to the Post for the entertainment Jay Bowen provides. He's a funny guy...not!

It's What We Do!

Jerry Hopper
Jr Vice Commander





From our Post Adjutant

Communication. It is important to what we do. We must communicate to you what your Post is doing in the community so that you will know and can turn around and communicate that to your friends and family. We need to communicate to you what The American Legion does for the veteran; what is new regarding benefits and services. It is so important that when I miss the editor's deadline, I'll get up at 0200 to write this article. I can sleep later; my priority is to communicate the importance of the Post news.

We would love to be able to look you in the eye at a meeting and tell you firsthand, but as the state's largest Post, we would have to rent a theater to make that happen. Instead, we communicate with this monthly newsletter, minutes for the official stuff, and a weekly email, the "411 on the 209," for the reminders and immediate action stuff. And BTW, in case you were wondering why we call it the 411, "In U.S. telephone exchanges, the number 411 is the extension used for information. Over time, this number developed into a shorthand way of talking about person-to-person or human communication." I found that on Google, along with some other interesting interpretations.

To push all of this info out to you, we use a free service provided by Mail Chimp, affectionately called "the monkey on my back," when things don't go as planned. So let's say you love the newsletter (as you should) and appreciate the 411's timeliness (ditto) but don't care about the minutes. Can you unsubscribe to the minutes and still get the good stuff? Unfortunately, NO. Pressing the link to unsubscribe to our mass emails will completely take you off the service. And as it should be, getting you back on is not easy.

If you find that you stop seeing the newsletter, 411, or minutes and a stoppage was not announced, email me, call me, or visit me, and we will see what is going on and try to fix it.

I have a few lines left, and there's no way I'm getting back to sleep, so let me touch on a few of the other services I can provide you as the Adjutant. First, do you want to set up automatic renewal, so the Post charges your credit card automatically every July? We would love to get to the point where national does not spend millions on sending multiple renewal notices when that money could be better spent on programs, and I can help you assist with that. Do you want to sign up with MyLegion? This allows you to manage your contact information, change your address, print a membership card, become a PUFL (Paid Up For Life), sign up for national e-newsletters, donate to The American Legion run charities, and access member discounts. I can assist with that as well.

I am in the office on MOST Tuesdays from 0900 to 1500 but check the 411 to ensure. You can also email me or call the Post and leave a message, and I will get back to you, and we can set up an appointment to meet anytime. "Always Forward"

Doug Millison

Adjutant
917-599-8624





From our Post Historian

As The American Legion Baseball sponsorship prepares to return to post 209, the post historian finds it noteworthy that on 1 March 1954, American Legion Baseball alum and MLB Hall of Famer Ted Williams fractured his collarbone in the first game of spring training...after having flown 39 combat missions *without injury* in the Korean War!

Operation Rolling Thunder began on 2 March 1965. American aircrews dropped over 643,000 tons of bombs on North Vietnam during the operation, which lasted through October 1968.

On 3 March 1776, the first amphibious landings in Marine Corps history occurred when 220 American Continental Marines stormed the shores of British-controlled New Providence Island in the Bahamas. Perhaps the difficulty in finding phrases that rhyme with "beaches of the Bahamas" explains its omission in "The Marines' Hymn."



Signed into law by President Hoover on 3 March 1931, "The Star-Spangled Banner" became the official National Anthem of the United States of America.

On 6 March 1836, after 13 days of fighting, the 182 defenders of the Alamo Mission in San Antonio were killed by an overwhelming Mexican force of 6000 troops led by Generalissimo Santa Anna. "Remember the Alamo" became the inspirational battle cry for Texas independence. However, later

generations of Tennesseans have still never

forgiven the state of Texas for unnecessarily involving Tennessee's native son, Davy Crockett, in the forlorn defense of the Alamo.

Code-named "Operation Meetinghouse," the American B-29 firebombing of Tokyo on 10 March 1945 was the most destructive single air attack in history, destroying 16 square miles of the city and killing over 100,000 Japanese civilians.

On 11 March 1942, General Douglas MacArthur promising "I shall return," personally retreated from the Philippines shortly before the Japanese invasion of the islands, leaving behind 90,000 American and Filipino troops at Corregidor and the Bataan Peninsula. Over 7000 of those captured forces died during the subsequent "Bataan death march" in April 1942, while MacArthur was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "defense" of the Philippines. Only one-third of the men MacArthur left behind survived to see the American recapture of the Philippines.

The name "The American Legion" was proposed, and a temporary Constitution was adopted at the 1919 Paris Caucus, which convened on 15 March. This first organizing caucus of The American Legion consisted of about 1000 officers and enlisted men of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) still in France at the end of the Great War.

The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom, began on 20 March 2003 intending to terminate the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein and eliminate Iraq's suspected weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

Assigned serial number 53310761, Private Elvis Presley was sworn into the U.S. Army on 24 March 1958. Later, while serving with the 3rd Armored Division in Friedberg, Germany, he collaborated with Private First Class Jay Bowen on the musical soundtrack to the movie *G.I. Blues*.



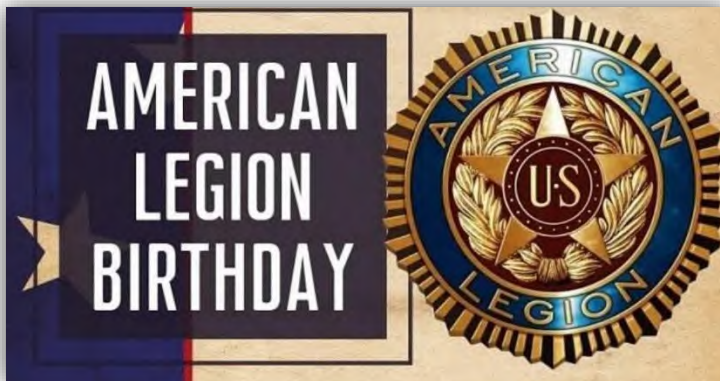
25 March is designated National Medal of Honor Day in recognition of the first Medals of Honor awarded on 25 March 1863 to six Union soldiers for their daring commando raid on Confederate forces.

Kurt Skinner
Historian



Mar 15, 2023

On this day 104 years ago, members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.





From our Honor Guard Captain

Last month's article featured a write-up about Honor Guard member Brad Henderson. Brad has done a lot for the Honor Guard. The Honor Guard was allowed to support an event for Brad at the last General Membership Meeting. Brad's Four Chaplains event was a great success. It was not only a solemn event of remembrance for four Army Chaplains but an important history lesson as well. Unfortunately, this is probably one of Brad's last Honor Guard events. Brad finds himself needing to return to Texas to support his family. His Honor Guard family at Post 209 will greatly miss Brad's "one event a month" presence.

Are you looking for a way to become involved with one (or more) of the activities at the Post? The Honor Guard team holds weekly meetings/practices at 6:00 pm on the 1st Monday, 2nd Tuesday, 3rd Wednesday, and 4th Thursday of each month (please check the Newsletter calendar for any changes in dates). Come to the Post and check out one of the meetings, and see if the Honor Guard is something you would want to help support.

The Honor Guard continues to gain new team members; however, there is no such thing as having too many members. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs is a few available hours: about an hour to participate a night (or even two) for a training meeting (a meeting is scheduled for every week, check the newsletter calendar) and up to a couple of hours for an event. So around three hours a month for a meeting and just ONE event is all you need to make a difference in helping support our veterans and our community. Members of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible to be members of the Honor Guard. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard or the Competition Color Guard, please reach out to me at (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain





From the Chaplain: PASSING THE BATON

For those who enjoy track and field, one beauty of the relay race is the careful passing of the baton from the runner who completes his or her portion of the race to the following runner. Success or failure, winning or simply "placing," depend on a careful handoff.

The American Legion came to life in Paris, France, on March 15-17, 1919. Members of the American Expeditionary Forces who had fought to victory in World War I gathered for what became known as the "Paris Caucus." In the months following the Armistice, they had time to think about life after the war, just as President Abraham Lincoln had 54 years earlier. President Lincoln's second inaugural address urged the nation "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." So The American Legion founders thought about those things.

They thought about how to protect the democracy they pledged their lives to defend. The American Legion would be built on strengthening the nation – not serving themselves. Our founders established a tradition of carefully transferring values and skills to those who would follow them. Today, The American Legion remains the largest veterans service organization in the United States. It can only remain so through strength in membership, active participation, joy in The American Legion family fellowship, and continued education and training in our Four Pillars of service.

Robert Burns wrote in his poem "To a Mouse," "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry." This is my final newsletter article as your Chaplain. Pam and I will be leaving soon. We chose Colorado Springs as our "forever home" two years ago. We love looking at "America's Mountain" and enjoying the many friends we have made here. Our Legion Family has faced challenges, and we have enjoyed successes together. Then, in the words of Jim Nabors as the character Gomer Pyle, "Surprise, Surprise!" All our plans and all our activities, present and future, were interrupted. Serious family dynamics are calling us back to Texas. In our belief system, the Good Lord never closes one door without opening another. Give your love and support to your new Chaplain. Always remember that "the one who gives prayer needs prayer."

We live in a fascinating world and at an interesting time in history. Unfortunately, today, there are few "noble" professions remaining. However, serving one's God, and serving one's country, are noble endeavors.

As a professional educator in a private Christian school, an ordained Christian minister, an American Legion and SAL Chaplain, and a proud, career Army Senior Warrant Officer, I have had



Photo credit: Douglas W. Millison. Chaplain Brad at the Four Chaplains Service

the distinct honor and pleasure of serving both. I have requested a transfer to The American Legion Post 179 and SAL Squadron 179 in New Braunfels, Texas, to continue our service to God and our country.

We may see you again from time to time. I'm a cancer fighter, and I wish to retain the excellent team that has assisted me in this fight. As we pack with heavy hearts, we believe:

*"When God asks you to lay aside
Some cherished work you loved to do,
Accept His choice of someone else
And let Him give new work to you."*

- Anonymous

It has been profoundly fulfilling to serve as your Chaplain. To our brothers and sisters, we do not say "Good-Bye" but rather, "Later!" May the Good Lord bless and keep you all.

Brad Henderson
Chaplain



From the desk of the Unit President

Auxiliary Unit 209 will be taking nominations for Unit officers in March, elections in April, and installation in May. All positions are open.

Our Unit is very active and busy with new projects, annual projects, and welcoming new members!

If you are interested in running for office, don't forget to send your letter of intent to Jackie Bowen. Elections will be held in April.

Our Unit has been chosen to lead an Active Duty Military Baby Shower. If you would like to help, please let one of your Unit officers know so we can put you on the email distribution list for the baby shower.

Thank you to all our members who have volunteered at dinners and other events. You are all wonderful and appreciated for all you do.

Happy birthday to all of our members born in March. Have a fabulous birthday.

Royce Hopper
Unit President
American Legion Auxiliary





From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

This spring will be a productive time for the Sons of The American Legion. We have had quite a few projects being put together and are ready to go. First, Chris Hollingsworth has the Refuse to be a Victim course available for the Post or any other venue. If you have a place in mind, please reach out. It is a fantastic course. Chris has also contacted people at Evans hospital on Fort Carson and approved us to get back to visiting children. We have 50 ALF dogs looking for a home, and this opportunity can help. Finally, Ken Taylor provided us with a blood drive. Thank you, Ken. We have more things in the works and are always looking for new ideas.

The Detachment (state) will have its annual Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) banquet at Post 209 on April 1. We will have food, drink, music, great company, visitors from Detachment, and the incoming Sons of The American Legion National Commander, JT Hall is planning to attend. We are still looking for donations! Let any Sons of The American Legion member know if you have anything awesome for a silent auction or want to donate money. Flyers are on social media and the Post website. We hope to see everyone there.

I would also like to take this time to thank a valuable member who has to move on. Brad Henderson has been at the Post for only a short time. The amount of help and service to us and the Post has been immeasurable. Brad has served as Sons of The American Legion chaplain, Sons of The American Legion SR Vice Commander, Detachment Chaplain, The American Legion District Chaplain, Post 209 Chaplain, and a member of the Honor Guard. Brad was there for most services at PPNC. You could always count on him to pick up rifles at the Post and return them. Seeing him presenting rounds at funerals was heartwarming every time. These are only a few of the many things Brad did for the Squadron and Post. You are going to be truly missed, and thank you for everything!

Our membership is growing, and we are looking forward to breaking records. We can do this with your help. I believe we have the chance to reach triple digits this year. If you are a Post member, please consider becoming a Sons of The American Legion member. As you serve at the Post level, any hours, mileage, and donations can and should be recorded and reported to us. Your volunteer time does not necessarily have to be related to The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion related. Any community service volunteer time is needed. This is what is reported to Congress. The more that is reported, the more we have a voice to help veterans. This is a win for everyone.

The busy season is upon us. It is a great time to be a member of Post 209. Come on down and see why. See you at the Post!

Rob Barry
Commander
Sons of The American Legion 209



UPCOMING EVENTS



Post 209 Nominations for Officer positions

I have been appointed again this year as chairman of our nomination committee. We need to fill a few vacancies, although all positions are open to any member of Post 209 in good standing. Let me know if you want to participate in the post-leadership and serve our members. Attached is a short description of each officer position. We will also ask for nominations from the floor in April when we have elections.

Commander: You are entrusted with supervising the duties of all other officers of the Post. You are the presiding officer at all meetings, and you must familiarize yourself with the policies and traditions of your Post and The American Legion.

Adjutant: Also known as the "First Sergeant." You are the Secretary of the Post. Post activities will revolve around you. The Adjutant is the Post personnel officer; maintains membership records, and minutes of meetings, checks up, and assists with the work of the other officers and Committees. In addition, you publish official orders, announcements, and instructions.

Senior Vice Commander: Your primary role is membership. No Post can survive without a strong membership. You should be familiar with ceremonial protocols for regular meetings. A Vice Commander must be ready to fill in for the Commander upon a moment's notice.

Junior Vice Commander: You must be ready to promote your Post. The Commander will depend on you to provide programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. You should contact other veteran and civic organizations so that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the attention it deserves. You are concerned with the pageantry of The American Legion. You should also be concerned with the welfare of all fellow veterans and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Committees.

Finance Officer: You will serve as chair of the Finance Committee and will be responsible for receiving and disbursing Post funds. You will work closely with the Post Adjutant in all matters related to the finances of your Post.

Service Officer: You should be a dedicated person with a deep interest in fellow veterans, the Post, and the community. You are responsible for bringing to the attention of all veterans and their dependents the rights and benefits granted by law. You must know how to utilize the expert services available through Legion channels and local agencies. You should be ready to visit dependents upon a service member's death. You may be called upon to serve as chair of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee, working with children and youth committees, or making hospital visitations and appointed by the Commander-elect.

Chaplain: You must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership. You work closely with all other Officers of the Post. You should attend all meetings of the Post and Executive Committee. When requested, you should be ready to officiate at the funerals of members. The Chaplain must also be prepared to serve the bereaved families of Post members.

Sergeant-at-Arms: You should know how to arrange the meeting hall and assist the Post Commander and Adjutant. You are the custodian of the Colors and in charge of Colors details during presentation and retirement ceremonies. You should know how to display flags and their proper presentation. You are also responsible for maintaining order at all meetings.

Historian: You are responsible for preserving and compiling our Post's records/photos (specifically through our Scrapbook and website). It would help if you tried to attend Department Conventions and keep in touch with other Post Historians. [You are only encouraged to attend, not required.]

Post Executive Committeeman: You are a voting member of the Post Executive Committee and are entrusted with the government and management of the Post. You shall be responsible for representing the interests of the general membership to the Executive Committee.

Judge Advocate: You provide professional advice in conducting Post business or assist in procuring proper counsel. You are the interpreter of the Constitution and By-Laws of our Post. You may be asked to assist in auditing Post financial accounts, appointed by the Commander-elect.

For more information, see: 2022 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies - <https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/271A0722%20Post%20Officers%20Guide.pdf>

Marvin Weaver
Nomination Committee Chairman





Post 209 Nominations for Officer positions

Auxiliary Unit 209 will be taking nominations for Unit officers in March, elections in April, and installation in May. All positions are open.

The offices and a short explanation of the positions are:

- President- to conduct meetings of the Unit and Unit Executive committee.
- Vice-President - assists the President and, in the absence of the President, performs her duties.
- Secretary - record all proceedings and maintain those recordings.
- Treasurer - receive and disperse all money belonging to the Unit and account for them.
- Chaplain - offers opening and closing prayers at the meetings. Send sympathy & get well cards to members and family members.
- Historian - compile historical records of the Unit and send reports to Department.
- Sergeant-at-Arms— preserve order at the meetings.

If you are interested in running for an officer position, please contact Jackie Bowen at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or 901-481-0673. We will also take nominations from the floor, and self-nominations are always welcome.

Jackie Bowen
Executive-At-Large
American Legion Auxiliary



The American Legion

Neal Thomas JR. Centennial Post 209



Veterans Strengthening America

 AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

 Girls
STATE

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

JUNE 15-20, 2023, NORTHEASTERN JR COLLEGE, STERLING

The American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State program is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program that encourages high school juniors to become empowered and knowledgeable leaders.

For information on ALA Colorado Girls State, visit us at

www.ALAColorado.com/Girls-State.html or contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

-  Develops pride and understanding of American government, freedoms, and traditions.
-  Inspires young women of all backgrounds and interests to engage with our system of government.
-  Stimulates passion for the democratic processes within our republic and the brave individuals who fight for our freedoms.
-  Fosters confidence, growth, and life-long friendships.



The American Legion

Colorado Boys State

A Week that will shape a Lifetime



FINISHING YOUR JUNIOR YEAR?

**YOU can join the nation's premier civics program
developing future leaders since 1949**

- You learn to govern Your State!
- Earn scholarships and college credits
- Military Academy application credit
 - Support our American heritage
 - No cost to attend

4-10 June 2023

To apply online, visit us at

www.CoLegionBoysState.org

Buddy Time

Haven't talked to another veteran in a while and are looking for like-minded conversation? Then, come on down to YOUR post and talk with your buddies.

Starting in January, the post will be open solely for **social time** on the **third Saturday of every month from 0900 to 1100 Hrs.** No meals, no fundraising, or meetings. Come to see your post or introduce family and friends to it. Grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and hang out with other members.



There will NOT be a Buddy Time in March due to a Scout lock-in at the Post. April's Buddy Time is **April 15th, 0900 – 1100**. We are looking forward to seeing you there.



FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

Yum, Yum, Eat 'em up!!

We will conduct a Butter Braid Sale starting **March 3rd** and ending March 30th. The delivery date will be April 6th. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than March 30th. I will call or email you with the delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$15.00 per braid & Gluten Free cookie dough. The Coda coffee pods are \$16. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen (901) 481-0673 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss the receipt of payment. Watch for reminder/update blasts to be sent. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

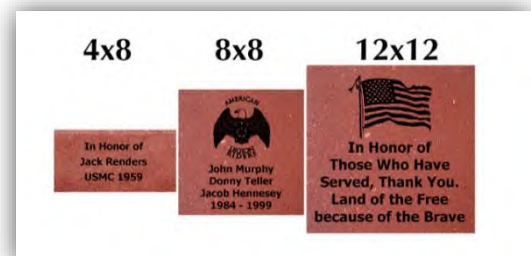
FLAVORS: Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Apple, Cherry, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, and Bavarian Crème Cheese with chocolate icing Butter Braids, and gluten-free cookie dough.



Walk of Honor



- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200, depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick, and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where will the brick be shipped?** All bricks will be sent to the post. We will notify you when it arrives, and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What will become of my brick?** It will be placed near the flagpole at the post. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How long will this fundraiser effort last?** We plan only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.



Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our projects. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know, and we will ensure they are all placed together.

Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

Host your next event with us! With over 2,500 SQFT of venue space this is the perfect location for your next social event!



Rental Features:

- 6 Hour Rental
- In House Catering Available*
- Fully Stocked Bar*
- Muti-Room Sound System
- Dance Floor with Lighting

If you and your family are looking for an affordable option for a wedding, corporate event, retirement party, or any other event, we here at The American Legion Post 209 are ready to assist you in all your event planning needs.

Starting at

\$350!



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply

GUEST COMMENTARY



National Legislative Council Resources

Did you know that you have a voice? I am privileged to be recently appointed as an alternate on the National Legislative Council (NLC) for The American Legion. There are so many wonderful resources for your concerns to be heard. I wanted to share a few websites to get you started.

Here you will find the topics we are advocating on your behalf:

<https://www.legion.org/legislative/258056/legion-lines-out-priorities-118th-congress>

Another link at the bottom of this web page will lead you to the Grassroots Action Center:

<https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/home>

Get involved! In the Action Center on the left side, you can see four topics you can click on, and it will take you to a pre-filled message that will be sent to your Representatives and Senators. On the right side, you can "Sign Up For Alerts" and "Find Officials" to message your Representative, Senators, Vice President, and President on the concerns that matter most to you related to Veterans issues. When using these links and contacting your representatives, please remember that you represent The American Legion, so stick to the priorities the NLC has outlined above. Also, make sure you choose all the families you belong to (The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary), so they know that we are united in this fight for your benefit.

Sarah Tobin





What is your MOS?

My first of three tours in Germany began in January 1972. I was stationed at Schloss Kaserne in the little village of Butzbach in the Hessen state in the Federal Republic of Germany (before the re-unification). It was a small Kaserne, and on the Post was the namesake; a castle. There are photos of Hitler standing on one of the balconies of this castle during WWII, giving a speech. When I was there, it was the barracks for my unit, C Battery, 6th BN, 59th Air Defense Artillery.

As you can imagine, the barracks lacked any semblance of insulation. It had radiator heating, keeping the rooms pretty warm as long as you were close to it. However, the hallways were very wide, long, and cold in the winter.

I was housed in a 4-person room on the second floor with one radiator. The room stayed a little cool but not uncomfortable. I think I was in the country for about three days when I learned my first valuable lesson about barracks life. My buddies and I were sitting around the room swapping "war stories" when our Charge of Quarters (CQ) NCO came into the room. He was an E-6 Staff Sergeant. He looked at all of us and then asked one at a time, "Have you been drinking?" I thought this was a very strange question. It was about 8:00 pm, so drinking was allowed in the barracks after hours. But as he pointed to each of my buddies with the question to a man, they responded, "Yea, Sarge, I've been drinking." Now, this was an even stranger response to the strange question. I had been with all four of these guys all day, and I knew they had not had a drop to drink.

Being the rookie fresh out of my Advanced Individual Training (AIT) school stateside, new in the country, a new E-4 Specialist, and scared to death of Staff Sergeants, when it was my turn to respond, I honestly replied, "No Sarge, I haven't been drinking." He said, "Good! Get your uniform on and come out to the CQ station." As it turns out, his CQ Runner was caught drinking on duty, and the Staff Sergeant relieved him of duty. Needing a CQ Runner, I was picked to finish his night tour. Man, it was cold, and I had to stay awake all night. I was mad, miserable, and cold. From that night on, whenever any NCO asked if I'd been drinking (after duty hours), my immediate response was, "Absolutely! I've had about a 6-pack!" After that, I never again got drafted (pun intended) into pulling someone else's duty.

So, what is your MOS? We'd love an article from you with tales of your time in service. Please make it light-hearted or heartwarming. We are not looking for real war stories in this article.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander





Salty Dog

NAVY TERMINOLOGY:

Knee-knockers:

A knee-knocker refers to the bottom portion of a watertight door's frame that stick up approximately 18 inches from the deck. They are notorious for causing shin injuries, and drunken sailors hate them. On a carrier, the 03 Level is notorious for the long straightaway full of knee-knockers.



Salty Dog:

A sailor that has made at least one deployment on a ship (the workups don't count). This distinguishes the new boots from the sailors that have been there and done that.

Landlubber Lubber:

This old word (dating from the 14th century) means a clumsy or stupid person. In the sailing term, landlubber refers to an unseasoned Sailor. The word alludes to what veteran Sailors regard as new Sailors' distinctive ineptitude at sea.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





Bringing A Little South to the West

For those who have read my articles, you are probably familiar with my older brother Eddie (a.k.a. Bubba). I also have two sisters, Debbie and Dee. Sadly, we lost Dee to cancer in 2015, but Debbie is going strong, and while I haven't talked much about her in these writings, she was and still is very much a part of my and Bubba's life growing up.

Debbie is the baby and arguably Mom's and Dad's favorite. I cannot remember a single time Debbie got spanked, grounded, or even yelled at for doing something wrong. Of course, Debbie would tell you it's because she didn't ever do anything wrong, but Bubba and I know better. So she never got caught, or our parents looked the other way when she did something against the rules. I suspect it was the latter.

Thinking back, I cannot imagine why Bubba and I incurred the wrath of our parents while Debbie just glided along like an angel. Sure, she was an honor student her entire 12 years in school, while Bubba and I celebrated getting "C's" (which wasn't often). And Debbie never sneaked out of the house...or she never got caught doing it. Nor did she ever break our 10:00 pm weekend curfew.

Here's what our parents didn't know, she was a terror. For example, we had some "Clackers." These were two clear, colored acrylic balls about the size of golf balls tied with two strings about a foot long and a hard plastic ring at the top for you to hold. It looked like a bolo. This toy was supposed to swing and make the balls "clack" against each other. Debbie used it as a weapon against Bubba and me for no apparent reason. She would claim we picked on her, and this was one way of making us stop. Occasionally, we would hide her "clacker." We also had a large decorative wooden mallet. This was Debbie's weapon of choice when she couldn't get her hands on the "clacker." We decided not to hide the mallet for fear of what she may have resorted to for weapon #3.

She was also a "squealer." I had this ingenious idea to make some spending money. Mom and Dad would give us our lunch money, then I'd wait for them to leave for work, and I'd fix a couple of bologna and cheese sandwiches. I took the sandwiches to school and sold them. One of my buddies was a steady customer of the sandwiches. I would pocket the money from the sale, not eat lunch, and as soon as I'd get home from school, I'd fix a sandwich to tide me over until dinner. After a few weeks of doing this, Mom told us we were going through the sandwich meat too quickly. Debbie told her about my entrepreneurial business, and Mom immediately stopped it. And I had to buy the next pack of Bologna at the grocery store. So my lucrative business venture came to an abrupt halt.

She grew up to be a pretty good person, largely thanks to my brother-in-law, David. Don't get me wrong. She's still mean to Bubba and me...and probably David. But she graciously opens their home to Jackie and me anytime we want to visit. I suspect it allows her to continue picking on me, and David seems to enjoy our visit. I think it gives him a break because Debbie now has another target. Everyone who knows her believes she's an angel. I'm reminded of the Elvis Presley song, "Devil in Disguise!" By the way, she's a member of our Unit and will read the article. I'm gonna pay for this. Hopefully, David hid the "Clacker" and the Mallet.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS



Junior Shooting Sports Program (aka Young Guns)

The Spring Junior Shooting Sports Program (JSSP) courses started on Wednesday, February 8 (Marksmanship) and Thursday, February 9 (Young Guns), with the courses running for ten weeks (awards night, April 13). The Marksmanship course provides youth ages 10-18 (boys and girls) who have completed the Young Guns course the opportunity to build further and develop their shooting skills. During the Marksmanship course, youth work with NRA Basic Rifle Instructors to improve their shooting and can earn the NRA Air Rifle Qualification patch with rockers for each skill level mastered (Pro Marksman, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert, and Distinguished Expert).

The Young Guns course provides youth ages 10-18 (boys and girls) the opportunity to learn about firearms safety and basic shooting skills. During the Young Guns course, NRA Basic Rifle Instructors teach the safe handling of firearms, shooting positions (prone, kneeling, and standing), how to zero a rifle, and how to score targets. At the end of the course, the youth have a competition shoot against the others to show off the skills they have learned.

The Junior Shooting Sports Program needs your assistance; we need more instructors. Three courses are required to become an instructor for the Post 209 Junior Shooting Sports Program: NRA Basic Rifle Course, NRA Basic Instructor Training Course, and NRA Basic Rifle Course. To help reduce the costs associated with the courses, there will be an NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course scheduled sometime around the beginning of March (watch for information in the Adjutant's 411 emails). This course will be at a heavily reduced cost compared to other courses in the area. There is a minimum of four students needed to hold the course. An NRA Basic Instructor Course and NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course are scheduled in Pueblo at the end of March through a SAL Squadron 2 member. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

The Fall Junior Shooting Sports Program courses are taking applications, costing \$30 per youth shooter for either course. If a youth is interested in learning how to handle a firearm safely and basic shooting skills, they are invited to sign up for the Young Guns course. If a youth has completed the Young Guns, they are asked to sign up for the Marksmanship course. Please go to <https://legion209.org/young-guns/> to download an application, complete it, and send it to Jesse Wade (jssp209@gmail.com) to sign up for either class. Please contact Jesse or me (jwhaas.al209@gmail.com) with questions regarding the Junior Shooting Sports Program.

Joel W. Haas
JSSP Instructor



Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>

Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner for six Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State are for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE www.colegionboysstate.org/.
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.html>

Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

www.colegionoratorical.org

Eagle Scout of the Year



The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective The American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>

MARCH 2023

For the most current version see:
https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	2 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm 	3 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	4
5	6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	7	8 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	9 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	10 Price TBD SAL Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	11 Price \$10 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
12 Daylight Saving Begins	13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	14 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	15 American Legion B'day! Marksmanship 4:00pm 	16 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	17 TBD St. Patrick's Day! St. Patty's Day Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	18
19 Troop 77 Lock-In	20 Start of Spring Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	21 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	22 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	23 Honor Gd. 6:00pm Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	24 Price TBD Aux. Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	25 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm Post Easter Egg Hunt 2:00-5:00pm
26	27 Navy B'day (Naval Act 1794) Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	29 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	30 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	31	Notes:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 CWF Banquet! 5:00pm 
2	3 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	4	5 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	6 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm  	7 Good Friday Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	8 Price \$10 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00 POST ELECTIONS!  
9 Easter Happy Easter!	10 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	11 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	12 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	13 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	14 Price TBD Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	15 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
16	17 Tax Day (Taxes Due) Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	18 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	19 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	20 Venture Crew 7:00pm 	21 \$14/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	22 Earth Day Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
23	24 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	25 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	26	27 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	28 Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	29
30	Notes:					